



Bagram News Express

START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Tech. Sgt. Todd Baldwin, from the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, secures a litter in the C-17 Globemaster III. Multiple litters were loaded onto the aircraft, full of medical equipment for the patients' flight to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Sergeant Baldwin is deployed from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and hails from Spartanburg, S.C. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

Reservists lead the pack for Aeromedical Evacuation

By Capt. David Faggard
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- With the increased U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan hitting about 68,000, there could be a hidden cost of wounded; and an increase of qualified medical personnel is surely not far behind

as one would expect fighting to intensify.

Major Cynthia Camp, an Air Force Reservist deployed from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., is the commander of the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and she loves saving lives, lots of them.

She used to be a combat medic; now she calls herself a bean counter, but for this Air

Force Reservist she's absolutely critical to Coalition war efforts in Afghanistan - and she's shattering records like they weren't even there.

In July 2009, the number of wounded transported by her Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has already exceeded 2008

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Tech. Sgt. Corey Hellman (left), a reservist deployed from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., hooks up the oxygen hose to a respiratory machine while Maj. Aalok Shah (right), deployed from Travis AFB, Calif., ensures the equipment works properly before departing on a mission. Both Sgt. Hellman and Maj. Shah are from the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

EAES

and is a third higher than 2007. And although these numbers are tragic, the Major offered some comforting words.

"Although the number of our wounded is rising, so is the survival rate of our patients," the Major said. "As tragic as it is, we're seeing people make it and they're getting the care they need much faster."

Her squadron provides care for injured coalition forces, civilian Afghans and the occasional high-profile public image — and the work doesn't appear to be slowing down.

"We're the busiest we've been in years," the Major said

detailing the capabilities of her airborne Intensive Care Unit and Clinic. "We can go anywhere and make a difference."

With more than a thousand pounds of supplies, machines and equipment, Maj. Camp's team travels into harm's way often landing in the remote corners of Afghanistan where they are needed most.

They use multiple aircraft from the Air Force inventory, to include Air Mobility Command's massive C-17 Globemaster III and air-to-air refueling aircraft, like the KC-135 Stratotanker. But the workhorse of this war will best be known as the C-130 Hercules. This tactical airlifter unit, comprised of active duty

Airmen, Guardsmen and Reservists lands anywhere in any conditions with a team of medical professionals at the ready.

At the helm of these teams is another Air Force Reservist who is an Emergency Room doctor in Massachusetts -- Lt. Col. Diane Murphy the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's senior flight nurse. She lauds the squadron's efforts and works side by side in the squadron that they call "family."

"Aeromedical Evacuation can rise above and provide care in any environment," she said referring to her flights. "We save lives and I'm proud to be serving alongside the best."

Deployed defenders' dog days

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
AFCENT Combat Camera Team

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – This deployment is for the dogs. German shepherds, to be exact.

A handful of Airmen and their canine companions are deployed here as part of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, the largest squadron of defenders in Southwest Asia.

This past spring security forces Airmen inherited the base defense mission for Bagram and the K-9 units play an essential role. The dogs search thousands people and hundreds of vehicles on a daily basis. They've found thousands of pounds of bomb-making materials, drugs and other illegal items.

When the handlers first arrived, their Army K-9 counterparts didn't have enough room to adequately accommodate the Airmen and their dogs. So the NCO-in-charge, Tech. Sgt. Drew Odell found a small piece of land that wasn't being used. He talked it over with all the right people and founded Camp Kujo.

"Once we had a place to

house and train the dogs, we needed to build the stuff to actually house and train them," said Sergeant Odell, who's deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Staff Sgt. Chris Reynolds runs his German shepherd, Baike, through a training obstacle course. Sergeant Reynolds is a dog handler with the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski)

Civil engineer and other construction units were already committed to different projects, so Sergeant Odell designed the compound and when the han-

dlers weren't on other missions, they were building it themselves. Units all over the installation "graciously donated" what they could.

Within a couple of weeks,

Sergeant Odell and his team had the facility up and running. The dogs had an obstacle course and the Airmen had a place to sleep. But they had to share it with their four-legged friends, so that became the next project.

"Even though we expected this to be a temporary facility, we put a lot of forethought into it when we started building it, especially the dogs' building," said Sergeant Odell, a Mesa, Ariz., native. "The floors (of the dogs' building) had to support the six kennels, which weigh about 3,100 pounds each, as well as the dogs and anyone coming in here."

Sergeant Odell also designed the dogs' building with a slight slope so it would be easier to wash out each day. A plus for the handlers.

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CAMP KUJO

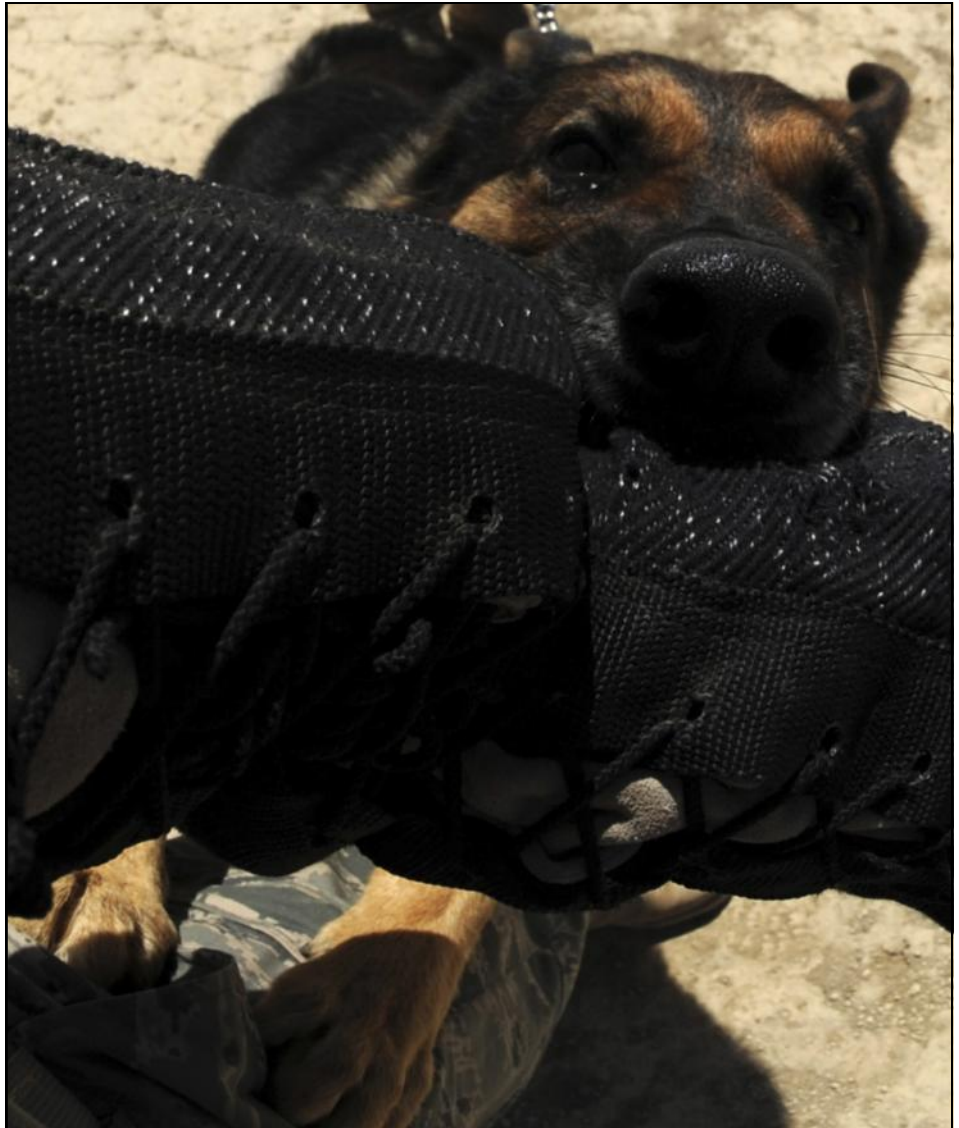
The camp requires constant maintenance. Couple that with normal mission requirements, and there are no "off days" for the K-9 units. When they're not on patrols, they're searching people, vehicles, buildings, mail and luggage for drugs and explosives.

And when they're not on missions, they're training. The dogs and their handlers have to stay in shape physically, so they run several miles a day, carrying their dogs the last half mile or so - practice in case their companion is ever injured. The K-9 teams also have to run the obstacle course and perform other drills to keep their dogs disciplined and mentally focused.

All the training ensures the dogs and their handlers are ready for any situation, whether it's one of their routine missions or augmenting other security forces Airmen, said Staff Sgt. Chris Reynolds, deployed with his dog, Baiky, from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

One evening a few weeks ago, about a thousand people on foot were all trying to exit a gate at the same time. The restless crowd jammed the turnstiles, but once Sergeant Reynolds brought Baiky out, the people instantly formed lines and the defenders were able to maintain order. Everyone stayed protected and the people trying to leave got off base safely.

"When Baiky barks, everyone minds their manners," said Sergeant Reynolds, who grew up in Visalia, about 200 miles away from Vandenberg. "Having the dogs here makes a



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Baiky, a military working dog, gnaws on a training sleeve Aug. 7. Baiky is deployed here with his handler, Staff Sgt. Chris Reynolds, from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski)

big difference."

For Staff Sgt. Scott Carpenter, a Clarksburg, Mass., native, having his dog, Kane, on the job means fewer people have to be assigned to a particular mission.

"One dog can search an entire room when it might take ten people to clear the same room," said Sergeant Carpenter, who's deployed from Peterson AFB, Colo. "What these dogs can do is just amazing."

Although the K-9 Airmen are fond of their little corner of the base, a new, permanent facility

is under construction. The new location will house more Airmen and their dogs, as well as an improved training area. Sergeant Odell helped design the new compound.

"We were the first Air Force dog team to come out for the force protection mission," Sergeant Odell said. "When we leave here, we'll have left it better for the next team, which is the goal. But we can't complain; we really do have the best job in the Air Force: we get to train and play with dogs all day. What's more fun than that?"

NEWS BRIEFS

NATO MEDALS: The NATO Medal takes approximately 90 days upon arrival for approval and distribution back to PERSCO. PERSCO has a spreadsheet posted to the SIPR public drive which you can view to see the status of your medal. If you notice any errors, call PERSCO at 431-2070/4409 or email 455MSG.PERSCO@afghan.swa.army.mil

EAGLE CASH: All deployed personnel (military, civilian and contractors) using Air Force finance office services within the USCENTCOM AOR are required to have an Eagle Cash Stored Value Card and highly encouraged to use it.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is Wednesday at 0830Z/1300L at the Enduring Faith Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air Field. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.

MEO CONTACT INFO: The Camp Cunningham Military Equal Opportunity Office at Bldg. 726 can be reached by calling 481-6226 or call the Air Force Discrimination Hotline at 1-888-231-4058.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Are your immunizations up to date? Active duty members are required to stay current on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact Task Force Medical Public Health, 431-4426.



GOING TDY: All Air Force members are required to in and out-process through PERSCO for TDYs, Emergency Leave or R&R Leave/Pass. The PAX terminal will not manifest you until they have documentation stamped from PERSCO. All personnel assigned to the 455th are required to complete the AOR Travel Authorization Memo for any type of TDY. Please direct questions to PERSCO, 431-4409/2070.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to inprocess with PERSCO. The inprocessing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the AOR for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, please visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the passenger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

PAPERLESS HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE: Just arrived here at Bagram? Got promoted? Hit a milestone in your career? Tell your family and friends at home by sending a paperless Hometown News Release available on the Bagram Air Field public Web site at this link: <https://hnforms.dmasa.dma.mil/lfserver/455AEWBAGRAM>. Just fill out the form and hit submit. It's that easy.



DEPLOYED LOCATION RACE BAGRAM AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MARATHON HALF MARATHON SEPTEMBER 13, 2009



Photos from 2008 deployed race locations.

Race Start: 0530
Sign up is at Camp Cunningham
POC: Chris Tyler

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